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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/975,214	11/20/97	KOHNO	A 1232-4391

EXAMINER	
OPSASNICK, M	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2645	13

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DATE MAILED: 02/07/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)
08/975,214	Kohno
Examiner	**Group Art Unit**
Michael N. Opsasnick	2645

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *Jan 17, 2001*

☐ This action is **FINAL.**

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire *3* month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) *1-77* is/are pending in the applicat

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) *1-77* is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara et al (5745711) in view of Allen et al (5737491).

As per claims 1,11,14,21,24,34,37,44,46-50,51,53,60-63,67-69,73,77, Kitahara et al (5745711) teaches a communication system comprising a transmission apparatus for transmitting an image and a voice to be added to the image, and a reception apparatus for receiving the image and the voice, wherein:

"said transmission apparatus comprises transmission means....the image and the voice....apparatus" as teleconferencing system transmitting both image and voice data (col. 5

lines 24-29; col. 5, lines 39-53; and displaying the status (change) in the image displays (col. 12, lines 40-53);

"said reception apparatus comprises control means.....causing predetermined display means to display the controlled image" as control module controlling both the image data and the corresponding audio data (col. 14, lines 44-62)

Kitahara et al (5745711) does not explicitly teaches the control of the image data based on the voice transmitted, however, Allen et al (5737491) teaches image (and image server control) based on transmitted corresponding voice signal (Allen et al (5737491), col. 1 lines 40-52). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of audio/video transmission to improve upon the invention as taught by Kitahara et al (5745711) with voice controlled image processing commands because it would advantageously provide control of the image files from a remote location (or from the sending location; Allen et al (5737491), col. 1 lines 24-34).

As per claims 2,15,22,25,38,45,77, Kitahara et al (5745711) teaches:

"said one reception apparatus is connected to said plural transmission apparatuses to be able to selectively receive the image or the voice" as multiple conferees all linked on the same teleconferencing system (Fig. 14, col. 15 lines 30-50).

As per claims 3,23,26,27,59,64-66, Kitahara et al (5745711) teaches:

"said control means causes said predetermined display means to display each of the images transmitted from said plural transmission apparatuses" as window having the ability to display the multiple inputs (col. 15 lines 39-45);

As per claims 4,64-66, Kitahara et al (5745711) teaches:

"wherein said reception apparatus comprises said predetermined display means" as window having the ability to display the multiple inputs (col. 15 lines 39-45).

As per claims 5,14, 17,27,28,40,45,52,54,56,57,60-63,67,68, Kitahara et al (5745711) teaches:

"wherein said control means emphasizes the image transmitted from said transmission apparatus, in accordance with contents of the voice transmitted from said transmission apparatus" as image is emphasized and is continued to be emphasized until the voice sound is stopped -- at this point the image is de-emphasized (col. 16 lines 24-31)

As per claims 6,7,29,30,58, Kitahara et al (5745711) teaches:

"wherein the emphasizing is to enlarge the image","wherein the emphasizing is to emphasize an outer frame of the image" as controlling the space of the image (col. 3 lines 34-40);

As per claims 8, 19,31, and 42, Kitahara et al (5745711) teaches:

"wherein said reception apparatus comprises a speaker for outputting the voice" as speaker output (fig. 27, subblock 907).

As per claims 9, 16, 18, 32, 39, 41, and 52, Kitahara et al (5745711) teaches:

"wherein said control means control a voice level of the voice transmitted from the predetermined transmission apparatus, in accordance with contents to the voices transmitted from said plural transmission apparatuses" as voice level control of the window containing the selected image (col. 20 line 52 - col. 21 line 8).

As per claims 10,20,33,43,70 and 74, Kitahara et al (5745711) teaches:

"wherein said control means controls resolution of the image transmitted from said transmission apparatus, in accordance with contents of the voice transmitted by said transmission apparatus" by changing the focus (resolution) of the image based on speaker location (col. 16 line 39 - col. col. 17 line 30).

As per claims 12,13,35,36, 69, Kitahara et al (5745711) teaches both a still image (photograph) and moving images (col. 13, lines 61 and col. 14 lines 1-6).

As per claims 55 and 73, Kitahara et al (5745711) teaches memory means for the image data (col. 6 lines 4-24). It is old and well known in the art of image processing that the amount of image data to be either transmitted or displayed is controlled by the memory capability of the system.

As per claims 71,72 and 75,76, it is old and well known in the art of image processing to have temperature sensors attached with image processors (cameras) because varying ranges of temperatures can have an adverse affect on image quality and therefore it would be advantageous to have such a feature because it would allow the user to monitor/control image quality.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 1/17/2001 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the prior art of record does not teach the claimed features of display control based on the received voice information and the control information transmitted to any of the plural transmission terminals on the basis of the received voiced information. Examiner disagrees and points to Allen (5737491) teaching image transmission based on the corresponding voice signal; as well as Kitahara et al (5745711) teaching reception apparatus to selectively receive image/voice; as applied above in the 103 rejections.

Conclusion

4. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-6306

Or:

(703) 308-6296

For informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT" on the front page of the communication, and do NOT sign the communication.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2021 Crystal Drive, Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Opsasnick, telephone number (703)305-4089.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Fan Tsang, can be reached at (703)305-4895. The facsimile phone number for this group is (703)308-6306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this applications should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

February 4, 2001

mno

FAN TSANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600